



**BILLING CODE 4163-19-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

**Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement  
for Occupational Safety and Health Education and Research**

**Centers**

**AGENCY:** National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) intent to publish a funding opportunity announcement for Education and Research Centers (ERCs). The purpose of this program is to support existing NIOSH ERCs and establish new ERCs, as appropriate, to address the burden of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the United States by providing state-of-the-art

interdisciplinary graduate and research training for the next generation of OSH practitioners and researchers.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

**DATES:**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Recipient Reporting Requirements:**

**Award Information:**

**Needs Assessment:**

**Regional Presence:**

**Budget Limits for Required and Optional Components:**

**DATES:**

- Anticipated Publication Date of Announcement: May 2015
- First Anticipated Application Due Date: November 2015
- Earliest Anticipated Award Date: June 2016
- Earliest Anticipated Start Date: July 2016

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Institute for  
Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention (CDC), intends to publish a funding  
opportunity announcement for Education and Research Centers  
(ERCs) that are focused on occupational safety and health  
graduate training and research training.

NIOSH is mandated to provide an adequate supply of qualified  
personnel to carry out the purposes of the Occupational Safety  
and Health Act, and the ERCs are one of the principal means for  
meeting this mandate. ERCs are academic institutions that  
provide high-quality interdisciplinary graduate training,  
continuing education, and outreach in the core occupational  
safety and health disciplines of industrial hygiene (IH),  
occupational health nursing (OHN), occupational medicine  
residency (OMR), and occupational safety (OS), as well as  
closely related allied disciplines. Research and research

training are integral components of ERCs, with ERC faculty and NIOSH trainees conducting research on issues related to the NIOSH National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA). The ERCs also serve as regional resources for industry, labor, government, and the public.

This Notice of Intent is being provided to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop meaningful collaborations and responsive projects. The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is expected to be published in May 2015 with an expected application due date in November 2015.

The FOA will utilize the T42 activity code. ERCs are located in accredited academic institutions across the country and provide graduate degree and certificate training in core and allied disciplines of OSH. ERCs also provide interdisciplinary research training to identify, assess, address, and improve OSH. ERCs conduct outreach to help improve knowledge and awareness of work-related safety and health issues, and they provide continuing education for OSH professionals. Through comprehensive, integrated programs, ERCs improve the safety and health of our nation's workers.

**Recipient Reporting Requirements:** Recipients funded with NIOSH ERC appropriations will be required to report project status on an annual basis. Specific reporting requirements will be detailed in the Terms and Conditions of the Notice of Award.

**Award Information:**

- Approximate Current Fiscal Year Funding: \$24,000,000.
- Approximate Number of Awards: 15-20.
- Approximate Average Awards: Up to \$1,800,000 / year.
- Fiscal Year Funds: 2016.
- Budget Period: 12 months.
- Project Period: Up to 5 years for established ERCs and up to 3 years for new ERCs.

**Application Selection Process:** Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by an appropriate peer review group, in accordance with CDC peer review policy and procedure using review criteria that will be stated in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

As part of the scientific peer review, all applications will:

- Undergo a selection process in which all responsive applications will be discussed and assigned an overall impact / priority score, and

- Receive a written critique.

**Needs Assessment:** ERCs must document that their proposed academic and research training programs meet specific regional or national workforce need and demand.

**Regional Presence:** ERCs should demonstrate collaborative efforts by working with a diverse and broad range of organizations to enhance worker safety and health in their region.

This Notice encourages investigators with expertise and insights in the area of occupational safety and health to begin to consider applying for this upcoming FOA.

**Budget Limits for Required and Optional Components:** ERCs are complex, interdisciplinary centers. Up to \$1,800,000/year total costs may be requested by an ERC. The following table lists required and optional ERC components and budget information:

ERC Components	Funding Information (Total Costs)
Planning and Evaluation Core (Required)	Up to \$370,000/year
Center Administration, Planning and Evaluation	Up to \$250,000/year

Interdisciplinary Activities	Up to \$30,000/year
Diversity Recruitment and Retention	Up to \$5,000/year
Outreach in Occupational Safety and Health	Up to \$35,000/year
Developmental Program Support (Optional)	Up to \$50,000/year
Academic Training Core (Required)	Up to \$930,000/year with 70% to Direct Trainee Costs
Required minimum of 3 Academic Training Programs. At least 2 from the core disciplines of IH, OHN, OMR, or OS, and 1 may be a core or allied discipline. There is no minimum number of trainees required for any one academic program. Applicants must fully justify need for all programs and their capacity	<p>There are no budget limits for individual academic training programs. Applicants must stay within the total \$1.8 million per year request in total costs.</p> <p>A minimum of 70% of the overall Academic Training Core budget must go to Direct Trainee Costs that provide stipends, tuition and fees, research support, and travel.</p> <p>A maximum of 30% of the overall</p>

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to meet training demand.

NIOSH will consider applications for Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs.

Complementary and Special Pathways for OMRs are eligible for NIOSH support if administered by an OMR Program accredited by the ACGME.

Applicants may request trainee support for academic certificate training programs in approved core and allied disciplines.

Trainee support is limited to tuition only and is included in the minimum 70% allocation toward Direct Trainee Costs. Certificate trainees should be clearly identified in academic

Academic Training Core budget may go to support Training-related Expenses that include support for faculty and staff salaries, supplies, equipment and non-trainee travel. This 70% / 30% allocation of funding may be applied across all academic training programs in aggregate, and need not be applied to each individual academic training program.



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training program budgets.

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Research Training Core (Optional)	Up to \$400,000/year with 70% of Collaborative Research Training (CRT) to Direct Trainee Costs
Pilot Projects Research Training (Optional)	Up to \$100,000/year
Collaborative Research Training (Optional)	Up to \$300,000/year  CRT supports the research training needs of NIOSH trainees and students from other disciplines who receive NIOSH support during their academic training program. A minimum of 70% of requested funds must go to support Direct Trainee Costs that provide stipends, tuition and fees, research supplies, and travel; a maximum of 30% may go to support Training-related Expenses that include support for faculty and staff salaries, supplies, equipment and non-

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trainee travel.

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Continuing Education Program Up to \$100,000/year

(Required)

Needs-based training should  
be offered to safety and  
health practitioners and  
allied disciplines to have a  
positive impact on workplace  
practices and policies.

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Dated: March 16, 2015.

John Howard,

Director,

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2015-06468 Filed: 3/19/2015 08:45 am; Publication Date:  
3/20/2015]